

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF AZERBAIJAN TO STRIVE FOR PEACE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today, I want to call attention to the longstanding relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan, and to recognize the efforts of Azerbaijan to strive for peace.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States was one of the first countries to recognize the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Since then, Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. Our countries continue to work together to promote European energy security, expand trade and investment, and combat terrorism. Azerbaijani servicemen served shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

While more than a year has passed since the end of the 44-day war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, tensions remain high in the region. I support the efforts of resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict through negotiations, as they seek to establish basic conditions for the continued development of relations between all countries of this region and establishing long-term peace and prosperity in the South Caucasus.

I believe peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan will not only boost bilateral relations between the two countries, but regional partnership and cooperation at large.

May God continue to bless the people of Azerbaijan and the United States. I pray that the strategic partnerships our countries have forged over the years will continue to flourish as they seek peace and security.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. TOMMY WHITAKER OF PORTLAND, TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and constituent Mr. Tommy Whitaker. On November 14, one day before his 70th birthday, Tommy retired after 45 years as an employee and 16 years as president and CEO of The Farmer's Bank headquartered in Portland, TN. Tommy is a proud Tennessean who has dedicated his career to serving the financial needs of his fellow citizens.

Tommy graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.B.A. before attending the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Tommy married his wife Shirley and raised two wonderful children—Susan Hand and Joseph Whitaker—all while continuing to work for the Portland community. Today, he is the proud grandfather of Grayson Whitaker.

In addition to his many decades at the bank, Tommy serves the Upper Cumberland community as president of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, and as a member of

the City of Portland's Industrial Development Board. Previously, he served for seven years on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Tommy is one of Tennessee's most influential bankers and his strong character and devotion to service before self has gained him the respect of his community and beyond. It is truly an end of an era for The Farmer's Bank. During his tenure, the bank has had significant growth, has produced steadily increasing returns to its stockholders, and now has a strong team to move the bank forward for years to come.

As the U.S. Representative for Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District, I am grateful for Tommy's friendship, his service to Tennessee, and his commitment to put people first.

An inspiring leader with a human touch, I hope Tommy Whitaker enjoys his much-deserved retirement back in Middle Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN DOUGLAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Douglas, Executive Director of the Tri-County Health Department, for his dedication and service to the people of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to his duties as Executive Director, Dr. Douglas went above and beyond by engaging, informing and educating community members, including by participating in seven Telephone Town Halls with my office and speaking to thousands of my constituents.

With more than 43 years of experience in the medical field as an Infectious Disease Specialist, Dr. Douglas has enormous experience in the field of public health and has played an instrumental role in disseminating accurate and timely information to Coloradans throughout the pandemic. On Telephone Town Halls, Dr. Douglas provided timely updates on COVID-19 and answered constituent's questions regarding how to protect themselves and their families. Under Dr. Douglas's leadership, residents of our community were empowered and informed as we worked together to help limit the transmission and impact of COVID-19 on our community.

There is no amount of recognition that can accurately display just how much Dr. Douglas has done for us. It is because of essential workers like Dr. Douglas that we have been able to make it this far in the pandemic. I wish him nothing but the best in the future, as we continue to fight against COVID-19.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MARY JAROSZ FROM THE SOUTHERN WAYNE COUNTY RE- GIONAL CHAMBER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mary Jarosz of River-

view, Michigan on the occasion of her retirement from the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber after over twenty-five years of service as Legislative & Business Forum Coordinator. Her significant contributions to our Downriver community are worthy of commendation.

Born in Colombia, she moved to the United States at a young age. She grew up on the eastside of Detroit and attended Wayne State University. When former Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber President Ed Clemente noticed Mrs. Jarosz's consistent attendance and interest in the Chamber's forum series, he offered her the opportunity to lead the series—and the rest is history. Since then, Mrs. Jarosz has turned the forum into the fantastic program that we know today, bringing in speakers from all areas of government and business. These speakers have included Former President George H.W. Bush, Michigan governors, state and federal legislators, and other leaders. Each year she has begun the series with an annual address from "Downriver's champion" the late Congressman John Dingell, a tradition that continues today with Congresswoman DINGELL. The effects of her hard work are felt in all areas of the forum and her impact will continue to be evident for years to come.

An active member of the Downriver community, her service does not end with her coordinator role. Mrs. Jarosz has served on the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber Board of Directors, representing Crystal Gardens Banquet Center in Southgate and on the City of Riverview's Board of Review. She is also a member of the Chamber's Public Policy Committee and has been a trusted friend and advisor to countless Chamber Presidents. In her efforts to educate the youngest of our neighbors, she has worked with local leaders to offer free admission to local high schoolers, so they have the opportunity to attend the legislative and business forums at no cost to them. A resident of Riverview, Michigan for nearly 55 years, she still lives there with her husband Rick. Together they have two children, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Her dedication to the community that she calls home is an inspiration to all who have crossed her path.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mary Jarosz for her dedicated service to the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber. We are grateful for her years spent improving the lives of all Michiganders. I join with Mary's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to her in retirement.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT STEPHANIE CROMIEN FOR RE- CEIVING A LIFE-SAVER AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Galesburg Police Department Lieutenant Stephanie Cromien on receiving a Life-Saver Award by Galesburg Mayor Peter Schwartzman on November 1, 2021.

Fellow GPO Officer Chris Hootman experienced a medical emergency at his residence